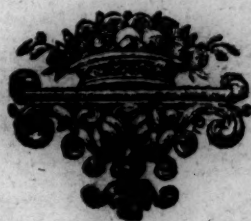


A
L E T T E R
T O A

L I V E R Y - M A N,

Occasion'd by his Commencing
P R O J E C T O R.

*His Passion cast a Mist before his Sense,
And either made, or magnify'd th' Offence!*
D R Y D E N.



L O N D O N:

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October 25, 1939



A

L E T T E R

To a *Livery-Man*, &c.

S I R,



T has been no small Concern to me to hear the great publick Character you have hitherto borne in the World, attack'd in all Companies, and your former distinguish'd

A 2

Merit

Merit sunk at once into the lowest Contempt.

As it is improbable that a Gentleman of your Distinction should be an Ear Witness of the common Conversation concerning your late extraordinary Scheme for *Reducing the Interest of Money*, I think it a generous Act to give you some Insight into it.

You are charged with Sacrificing your Fellow Citizens to your own mercenary Views, and to have contracted an Intimacy with a *certain Politician*, on whom your Fellow-Citizens have always look'd upon with a jealous Eye, and on *whose Promises there is no Dependance*.

That you have left the City behind you, and run headlong into Measures you had no Business with; that you have turn'd Schemist, neglected what
you

you ought principally to have regarded ; and instead of adhering to the City, have made your Court to Sir -
 .---R---.

That you have endeavour'd to ruin both Widows and Orphans, to *reduce* People of small Fortunes to Poverty; to ruin Trade to make yourself Great.

That your former Virtue is no more, and that your Zeal for the City is sunk into a Deluge of *Avarice*.

That you have acted the Part either of a very *weak Man*, or a very *designing one* ; if the first, it is concluded you are very unfit to be the Representative of so great and opulent a City ; lest your Weakness should in some Manner or other, hereafter put you upon *Schemes of Reduction*, more destructive than what
 you

you have hitherto done; if the latter, it is concluded you will always be hatching some Scheme or other detrimental to the true Interest of the Place you represent; so that, be it one Way or the other, you are at present look'd upon by the Generality of of your Fellow-Citizens as a very dangerous Man, and an Enemy to the trading Part of the Kingdom.

You have indeed, Sir, some Advocates, who say, That you are a Gentleman of such Honour, Judgment, and Integrity; that you can neither be outwitted, or be guilty of a Mean Action, That you have a Soul above Bribery, and that Allurements of titular Honours can have no Weight upon a Man who himself is all Honour. To this it is answer'd, That if a Man of your Publick Character could vindicate himself, he certainly would do it, since you must undoubtedly be sensible how much you are lessen'd

lessen'd in the Publick Esteem, by
some late publick Proceedings.

It has been argued in your Favour
Sir, that your Intentions were to re-
lieve the poor Manufacturers, by ta-
king of some Duties, under the heavy
Burden of which they have so long
groan'd: To which it has been answer'd,
That you might have known, had you
enquir'd after Truth and Knowledge,
That additional Duties are easily heap'd
on us, *even if they proceed from the very
Dregs of the Tap-Tub*; but what just
Reasons you had to believe any should
be taken off, remains at present a ve-
ry great Mystery: For, say your Fel-
low-Citizens, Who promis'd you, that
such heavy Duties on the common
Necessaries of Life which the poor
Manufacturers, and their Families so
heavily groan under at present, should
be taken off? Did you Imagine your
own Elocution sufficient to bear down
all

all before it? Or did a sufficient Number of charitable Members of the Honourable-----H----- of C----- promise you that they would give their Votes for the taking off such Duties? Or is there any *one Member* in that Honourable House, that you are acquainted with, who can procure a sufficient Number of Votes, to take off some heavy Duties on the poor Manufacturers? and if there is a Person of such Influence; did he faithfully promise you, that he would be so *charitably* disposed to make use of his Influence on such an Occasion? And if he did, is he a Person whose Faith is Sacred? Did he not listen to your Proposals of *Reducing Interest*, only to sift you? To learn from you, something he was Ignorant of before? Did he not turn you inside out? discover the Secrets of your Heart? and after he had depriv'd you of all your Rigging, set you and your Scheme

Scheme a floating together upon the wide Ocean, and smile at your Distress?

These Questions, Sir, require a plain and Direct Solution, before the Publick Ignominy can be remov'd from you: Your Name was no Secret, when the *Reducing Scheme* was brought into the House, and your own Name ought to vindicate your Honour from publick Reproach; and to put the *Saddle upon the right Horse*. If indeed your Stomach is so great, that you cannot condescend to acknowledge a Mistake; you must take your own Way; but this I'm sure, Sir, that your Fellow-Citizens would heartily rejoice at the Sight of a Defence of your self and clear up the Cloud which at present hangs o'er your Head, and ready to Drown you in a Deluge of Disgrace.

B

Your

Your Intentions of relieving the poor Manufacturers (if you ever had such Intentions) are at present look'd upon as a Chimera of your own Brain; that you never could have any sure and just Reasons to imagine your self capable of accomplishing such a happy Effect; for that your Interest was too small, and your Elocution of no manner of Weight in the H--of--C--s to succeed in an Affair of that Nature; and that the most favourable Construction that can be put upon your late Proceedings, is, *that you are a Dreamer of Dreams; a Builder of Castles in the Air*; and that a proper Care should be taken of you suitable to your Condition: and that the Doctor of *Bedlam* is the only Person fit to Visit one in your Condition. This, Sir, is the most favourable Manner of treating you.

But,

But were I, Sir, to relate what the more furious and implacable say of you, I could unfold ---- but, good Manners obliges me to desist; therefore, Sir, I leave you to read what Characters has been transmitted from Generation to Generation of the worst of Men.

But however, Sir, I will give you some Insight how far many of your Fellow-Citizens intend to carry their Resentment; They think you a Person unfit to fill the Prætorial Chair; and dangerous to be trusted with the Keys of their great and opulent City, And when it is objected, That such a Proceeding would revive the ancient Feuds and Animosities that once subsisted on those Occasions, 'tis answered, That notwithstanding the Livery Men of *London* have thought proper, for some Years past, to elect their

Lord Mayors by Seniority, yet that pacifick Custom ought to be laid aside, when they have Pre-Demonstration of the unhappy Disposition of the Man they are to elect. That the Right of Election is still the same as ever, and that this is a proper Time to revive their Right; to prevent for the future an indolent Security in those who, otherwise might imagine themselves sure of being Lord-Mayors by Seniority. For, that when clamorous Elections were set aside, it was to prevent the Ill-Blood of Parties, which at that Time flow'd to such dangerous Heights, as to threaten an Inundation to stream from human Veins. But that the Affair with you is quite of a different Nature; therefore they are resolv'd to use the utmost of their Endeavours to *reduce You*; and demonstrate to the World that no *one Citizen* is capable of trampling upon some Thousands

lands; and to make the greatest of their Members *thoroughly sensible*, to whom they *owe their Greatness*.

You well know, Sir, that your Brethren of the Livery have an undoubted Right to set aside, or elect, whom they think most proper to be their annual chief Magistrate; therefore you should have given yourself some Time for Reflection before you run headlong upon your own Inventions. You know, that such a large and rich Body of Men are not to be trifled with or despised by any of their Representatives; they are not without Resentment, and *dare show it, and have shown it, and are ready to show it again, if it should be necessary,* to a much greater Man than yourself. They expect an Account of every Representative of their Actions and Behaviour, who is in Duty bound to render one, when requir'd; for there

there is a wide Difference between representing this great *Capital*, and the *Cottages* of half a dozen *Fishermen*. The Livery Men of *London* look upon their Representatives as their *Deputies*, not their *Masters*, who must expect to be employ'd again, or discarded, according to their good Behaviour. I presume, Sir, you have a little more Sense, than to imagine you acquire absolute Power, or Infallibility, when you are chose to sit in the H---- of C-----. So far from acting *arbitrarily*, you ought then to be circumspect in a very particular Manner; for one wrong Step throws you at once from all former Esteem, as you now sufficiently experience.

If you had acted like a prudent Man, you would have first consulted your Brethren the Aldermen, and some other eminent Citizens; thus
the

the Scheme might have been duly weigh'd before you had shewn it to Sir—R—, you might have then been inform'd, that it was out of the Power of a Citizen of *London* to carry any Design contrary to the Views of increasing the Revenues : That to talk of taking off Taxes was ridiculous ; and that indeed if you had invented a Scheme to add a little more Weight on the Shoulders of the poor Manufacturers, you then would have been an acceptable Man, and fit for the Purpose. But let what would have been the Consequence, if you had ask'd Advice, the Stain would have been entirely taken off from yourself ; and you would have been free from that Disgrace which has so heavily fell upon you. But how difficult is it to descend, when once a Man is rais'd upon a Pinnacle, yet how easy to fall at once, and *dash his Brains out* ?

And

And here, Sir, I must observe to you the unhappy Behaviour of the late Mr. *Heysham*, who lost his Election for the City of *London*, by his own Pride and Self-Will, and assuming too much upon his former great Character. His Vanity had carry'd him to such a Height, that he not only thought his own Election out of Dispute, but endeavoured to oblige his Fellow-Citizens to chuse such Gentlemen for their Representatives in Parliament as he thought proper to impose upon them. But alas! how was he disappointed? So far from gaining his Point that Way, he lost his own Election.

That Gentleman's Behaviour, Sir, was in some Sort parallel with yours: You was so conscious of the high Esteem the Citizens had for you, that it was beneath you to ask Advice

vice. All was right that you did! There is however, at present this Difference betwixt you and Mr. *Heysham*, he shew'd his Presumption before he was chose, but you have made your Election sure. You are indeed a Representative for the City of *London*; but considering the Clamour that has lately been raised against you (how justly your own Conscience is the best Judge) can you reasonably expect ever to be chose again?

If you had form'd any Design of abandoning the City, you should have gone through Stich with it, and not have done Things by Halves; for you can never expect to be *palm'd* to any Purpose, without you can do some Drudgery. Do you think any Man wou'd keep a Servant, without ~~be~~ *passively* obey'd his Commands? Alas! you have neither done one Thing nor the other, but seem *suf-*

C

pended

ended betwixt both for a publick Mark of Reproach! I hope your Example will be a Warning for the Future to all Representatives of this City, how they endeavour to carry Projects in the H— of C— when *one grand Projector* can turn and wind them into whatever Shape he thinks proper.

I will here, Sir, for your Information, give you a small Sketch of the Qualifications necessary to make you a compleat Servant.

You must jump over a Stick, Sir, at the Word of Command; you must fetch and carry with the utmost Alertness, and Activity; you must fawn, cringe, and lie at your Master's Feet; when it suits his Con-
veniency you may sport in a clear Stream; and sometimes you must plunge Head-foremost into the Mud,
and

and never pretend to object that you will be dirty : You must ask no Questions ; but obey the Voice of your Master : You must bark when your Master is attack'd ; and bite when he halloo's you. What think you of these Qualifications, Sir, will they suit you ? But these are trifling compar'd with the Number of other Tricks you must perform : You must go backward or forward, and always dance to his Pipe.—— But I hope, Sir, you will think better of it than to engage yourself in such a Service.

It is a lamentable Case, Sir, for a Gentleman of your *once* worthy Character to give Occasion for an Epistle of this Nature, to forsake the amiable Qualities of good Sense, good Nature, Affability, and Condescension, for Pride and Self-Will. The Generality of People now have given you

up for one fond of your own Opinion, and wrapt up in your own Judgment; conscious of being always right, tho' ever so wrong; blinded with Conceit, and eat up with Vanity; too proud to ask Advice; and lull'd into an Insensibility of ever meeting with publick Censure. These are not the Notions of a rude and unthinking Rabble; but the Sentiments of a great Number of Fellow-Citizens, as capable of thinking as yourself, Sir; if you can be brought to believe there are any such in this great Metropolis. But you have lately gorg'd such a Potion of *Understanding*, Sir, that you cannot, perhaps, help looking down with Contempt upon all those who cannot agree with your *more* than excellent Opinions.

It is, Sir, no Pleasure to a Fellow-Citizen to see you labour under such Weakness

Weakness and Infirmary, as have deprived you of your former Understanding; and soften'd you into a Paste to be moulded by a Man who can carry as many different Faces as occasionally serve his Turn. I really believe, Sir, for my own Part, that you are a good Citizen; but as for a *Politician*, I must ask your Pardon, Sir, if I must be so free as to tell you, that you know but very little of the Matter; there is a wide Difference betwixt the Art of Trade and the Art of Government. You may, 'tis very probable, have very good Designs, for relieving the poor Subjects from the heavy Taxes they at present groan under; but you ought to have remember'd *in whose Power it was to execute your Designs.*

But you are not the only Man in the World, Sir, that have been hurried away by the Force of Error; yet
if

if your Understanding has betray'd you, you ought to acknowledge it, and consult wiser Heads for the future; if your Obstinacy sway'd you, be obstinate no more, if mercenary Views bias'd you, look back with Shame, and be content with that Affluence of Fortune you already enjoy; repeat the Lord's Prayer every Morning; and suffer yourself no more *to be led into Temptation to swallow the Golden Bait.*

I am sorry, Sir, I should have Occasion to write to you in such a Manner, both from the great Veneration I always had for you, and from the Pain I receive, when I reflect how you are laugh'd at by a Gentleman, in whose Power, I am very well persuaded, you never intended to put yourself, to make you the Subject of his Ridicule.

I hope, Sir, you will be able to make as publick a Vindication of yourself as you have been publickly ridiculed; and tho' some of your stirring Friends have declared, it would be demeaning yourself to write a Pamphlet, with your Name in the Title-Page, thinking the Reasons given in the *Daily Post* a sufficient Vindication: I must observe to you, Sir, that no Man ought to stand upon those ceremonious Punctilio's of Grandeur, when it is to vindicate an expiring publick Character. And likewise that the Reasons given in the aforesaid *Daily-Post* may as well come from any Body else as from you. If indeed you look down with Contempt upon your Fellow-Citizens, and think them not worthy your Notice, proceed to irritate them as fast as you can----- But think of the Consequence.

You

You must excuse me, Sir, if the
 Stile of this Letter is not altogether
 agreeable, and consider it as the
 Work of a downright blunt Citi-
 tizen.

I am,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant,

and Fellow-Citizen.